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Perspective: Praxis

UMSL, Black Power and
Society: A Proposal

The following article by Michael Hughes, SA President, is the first in a series of weekly articles. The views expressed are those of Michael Hughes, and are not necessarily shared by the Senate or the Current Staff. Any comments should be sent to MH or the Current Editorial Editor.

By Michael Hughes

(Note: Although this column is written by the Student Association president, the viewpoints contained do not necessarily reflect those of the Senate or any other Student Association body.)

On January 9, a group of University students agreed to meet with me in order that together we could discuss their problems and find some possible--and meaningful--way to involve them in the process of student government and other related activities of the Student Association. This was the only purpose for the dialogue. I believe the meeting was highly successful because of an open, frank and free atmosphere maintained by both parties, the students and two officers of the Student Association--and because of a sincere desire on both sides to reconcile any misinformation or lack of information. These students happened to be Negroes.

This meeting was not opened to the general student body or to the campus press since this was at the request of the participants and because of the necessity of maintaining the free atmosphere, which was difficult to do with interested members of the *Current* staff making a number of inquiries and trying to get further information. The large number of students attending the meeting made it necessary to transfer the meeting from the Student Association Office to the student lounge in the Administration Building. This created some disturbance, and quite naturally attracted the attention of the *Current* in an adjoining office. I commend the *Current* on expressing a sincere desire to keep the student body informed of the Student Association's activities. In this case, there was an ethical commitment to take into consideration: the request for privacy. I could not revoke this commitment, even though I may have used the wrong approach in informing the *Current*--and should have taken the time to explain the situation further, instead of taking lightly their acceptance of reporting a campus situation--as they saw it at the time.

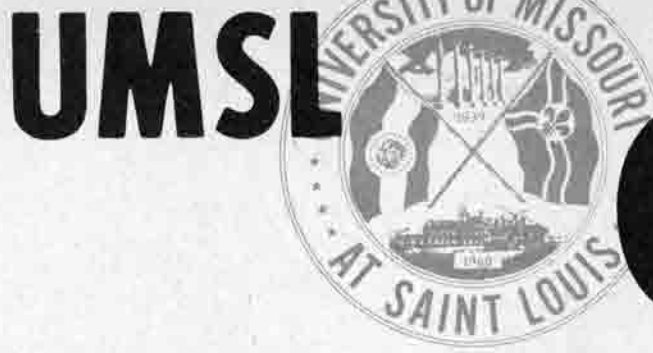
Black Power

The *Current* did mention in an editorial, "SA Seclusion--Current Exclusion," the rumors that the meeting was a "black power conference," and this is the subject for this column.

In August, delegates of the National Student Congress of the United States National Student Association passed legislation on the subject of black power, which reads in part:

Black power is the establishment of racial pride, identity, purpose, and direction in order to secure economic, political, social, and cultural power and influence for the black peoples in America.

(Continued on Page 2)



CURRENT

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 16

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI AT ST. LOUIS

JANUARY 25, 1968

Area Schools Confer Here With ASG Leaders

In a meeting with St. Louis area schools here Friday, January 19, David Laubersheimer of Associated Student Governments, stated that, "In the past ASG has been ineffectual as a body. This year will be a new year--a year of exploration, innovation and involvement. We are going to make ASG a dynamic force."

The meeting, which was headed by Robert Neeley, president of ASG, and his staff, was called for the benefit of St. Louis area colleges which are not members of ASG. The purpose of the meeting was to arouse the interest of the schools in joining ASG and to give them the opportunity to ferret out any specific information which the generalized ASG literature does not provide them.

Aside from Neeley, his staff, and Michael Hughes, UMSL Student Association president, Forest Park Community College was represented by their student body president, Carl Bartz, and the vice-president, Joanne Nistor. ASG coordinator Susan Riffe was present with Marcie David, Diane Kennedy, and Mary Margaret Smith all of Lindenwood College. Student body president Madonna McGrath, Ella Hibberd and Kathy Brock of Webster College also attended, as well as Fontbonne's president Ellen O'Hara and senator Margie McNamee.

Neeley and his staff continually emphasized throughout the meeting the real purpose of ASG--that ASG is a clearing house of information, a distributor of facts for the member schools. Neeley, in answer to a question concerning the survey on student rights which the 123 member ASG was taking, said, "Our purpose is not to state to the public how ASG colleges feel on a certain matter, but to tell the members of ASG how others

in ASG feel."

Concerning the junior colleges, which will probably receive full ASG membership rights in February when an amendment to that effect is ratified by a vote of two-thirds of the member schools, Laubersheimer stated that a commission was presently studying the unique problems of the community college.

He did say, however, that many of the junior college problems were similar to those of four-year institutions.

After indicating that the junior college has much to offer to ASG, Laubersheimer unveiled the ASG project which will elicit ideas from everyone of the over 700 community colleges of the nation in a questionnaire form. The questionnaires will be sent to both student body presidents and deans of personnel services in order to get a complete picture.

In the discussion of other campus situations, such as constitutional revision and successful constitutional forms, which Neeley believes should be one of the biggest concerns of student government, the emphasis was still placed on ASG as a file cabinet of information; as a connecting line to other colleges which may have solved such problems.

ASG seems to be in existence at present solely to help student bodies help themselves. As ASG vice-president David Hinshaw of the University of Cincinnati stated to the group, "If you don't have a problem and don't expect to have any, there's no reason for you to join ASG."

Neeley made a similar statement when asked if ASG offers benefits similar to those NSA offers. "We can't offer travel benefits such as the NSA offers," he said. "We are trying now to help the schools with their problems."



Robert Neely, President of ASG, Bonnie George, National Secretary, and David Laubersheimer explain ASG policies to representatives of area colleges, January 19.

Photo by Mike Olds

Offering travel benefits would be like saying, "Forget your problem and travel!"

Finally, in answer to a charge that movement of The ASG central office from campus to campus as the administration changes is somewhat inefficient and time-consuming, Neeley commented, "We are an organization of students working with students. This will remain as such until we become professional. At present, there are many pros and cons to going professional. Do we have to stay close to the problems to be able to handle our job, or can a person off the campus work with people on campus?"

Neeley, as do the others of his staff, feels that if ASG stays within its structure as a "Clearinghouse for ideas," the organization will

Mock U.N.

UMSL's International Affairs Committee of the Student Association is seeking students to participate in the Midwest Model United Nations at the Sheraton Hotel, February 28-March 2.

The International Affairs Committee will sponsor a delegation of seven students, or six students and an advisor. Membership is open to the whole school.

Those interested in a delegate's position should contact Toni Ilagan in the Political Science Department.

be of benefit to all who are a part of it.

Students Organize Free University

Students interested in initiating an experimental, free university to augment the established institution met Jan. 16 in Rm. 208 of the Administration Building.

According to Hal Sears, moderator of the group, they "discussed the need for relevant, enjoyable learning experiences outside the present institutional confines." Sixteen students and one faculty member attended.

Sears, commenting on the purposes of such a university, stated: "There is a consensus among a core group of students and faculty at UMSL that education can be more meaningful than it is. An experimental university with informal, intimate "classes" geared to the interests of the participants seems to be a way to strengthen the learning situation. Large size and direction from the top may work in business corporations, but I'm not sure education should be a business. The point is, simply, that college sometimes gets in the way of education."

The experimental university would offer courses originated by students themselves and would seek qualified individuals to direct them. Examples of projected courses are Negro history, directed by Dr. Richard Resh; Contemporary Sounds in Music (Blues, Rock, etc.), directed by Ron Edwards; and discussion courses dealing with current issues.

Senate Must Approve

Pending approval by the Student Senate, the experimental university will begin next semester. An information booth will be set up Feb. 5, 6, and 7 in the Admin. Bldg. No official university credits or grades will be given.

Projected plans are that classes will be fairly small in a semester lasting five or six weeks. Classes would conceivably meet from four to ten times during such a semester. Sears said that so far about forty students and several faculty members have expressed interest in the experimental university.

Board Will Select Queen Finalists

Candidates for homecoming queen, all 21 of them, will be interviewed by a selection board students, faculty, and administration this year. Student members of this board are: Mike Baumer, representing the President's Advisory Council; Maria LaGree, representing Student Court; Clarence Slaughter, representing the UMSL Rivermen basketball team; Sue Langford, representing the Senate; Doug Emory representing the Student Union Board.

Date and time of the interview has yet to be announced. Five finalists will be chosen by the selection board. These five coeds will be voted on by the student body February 9 and 10.



Officially Barb Duepner is just a candidate for homecoming queen... but this 5-foot, brown-eyed, brown-haired student court justice is undoubtedly this week's *Current* Coed.

Photo by Jim Rentz



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Current Comment

Budget Situation Not Hopeless

The publicity given to the recent budget cut for the Missouri University system led us to believe that the outlook for higher education in Missouri was pretty grim. A closer look at the figures shows that substantial cuts have been made in capital and building funds, but that the situation is not hopeless.

The UMSL campus lost state funds for parking structures, maintenance and Warehouse buildings, and a Fine Arts, Speech and Dramatic Arts building. However, this does not mean that the growth of the UMSL campus will come to a standstill. Funds were requested in the Executive Budget Recommendation for an Arts and Science building for this campus. Several buildings--the Business and Education building, the Social Science building, and the University Center--have already been approved and granted funds by the last session of the legislature, but construction has not yet been started. These, in addition to the buildings now under construction, insure considerable progress and improvement for UMSL for the near future. In addition, it is obvious to any student at UMSL that a parking structure is a vital need; likewise, a Maintenance and Warehouse structure is a necessity; these needs will be pressed until funds are eventually allocated. The fact that they were cut this time, does not mean that they are rejected permanently. Most likely, they will be given higher preference the next time the University submits its request.

As long as there are operating funds (the Executive Budget Recommendation showed only an 8% cut for the entire Missouri University system), there will be continuance of the present facilities; as long as there is allocation of funds for at least one new building, there will be progress, however slow.

C.W.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

In the last issue of the *Current* a front page news story quoted Mike Hughes as saying he felt the Black Power resolution should have been supported because America's neglect of the problems of society need such an overstatement to arouse them.

I, too, feel that the need to awaken the American people to our problems of society need such an overstatement to arouse them.

I, too, feel that the need to awaken the American people to our problems is an urgent one. However, I don't believe that rash statements, such as the recently defeated resolution, supporting all moves aiming at achieving the Negroes' goal of equality no matter what methods are used, should be supported.

Many peaceful sit-ins and demonstrations have been conducted with a certain amount of success. This is to say that segregation barriers have been removed in some places. But there are many people who still harbor prejudice and malice in their hearts against Negroes and no amount of Federal laws and court decisions will change their feelings, even though their actions may obey the law.

If these peaceful demonstrations should ever deteriorate into riots involving violence and crime,

whatever has been done over a period of months and years to lessen the prejudice these people hold, can be undone in an hour.

When we advocate furthering the Negroes' cause by any means necessary, we take the chance of backing up--and even, for that matter, advocating--the possibility of violence, and evil our nation's people want to avoid.

Angry, emotional mobs can be influenced to do many things which a calm crowd having a definite aim would not do.

Negroes will gain nothing by terrorizing white people through violence. They may even make a few enemies just as the "good white people" did when their cowardice prevented them from defending the Negro when his rights were questioned. Trust in each other's worth and each other's good will is essential to further progress in achieving racial equality. We must not say or do anything that could jeopardize this trust.

Sincerely,
Therese Luth

Dear Mary:

Congratulations on your acceptance of the task of improving the UMSL Current. I am confident that you will succeed in your endeavor.

I certainly have not been supporting a drive to censure the

Solution In Praxis--Action After Discussion

(Continued from Page 1)

With the development of potential and a positive self-image, the black man attains self-respect and self-determination.

With this improvement of the black man's life style, he will have reason to live and not merely to exist . . .

. . . the student should seek with interest those problems which will lead to responsible involvement in social and political action.

The basic idea behind black power is that after centuries of slow progress, at best, the Negro is being integrated into a white mentality which causes the break-up of the Negro family and "emasculatation and loss of dignity of the American Black Man."

While I can fully agree with the alienation and subjection which a predominant white society has produced for the Negro, I cannot see a solution in the NSA proposal that would include the exclusion of a large segment of society, namely us whites, in coming to an acceptable solution. There is no solution in black power, there is no solution in white power, there is no solution in ignorance or prejudice that is demonstrated by racists on both sides. Neither is there a solution in discussion if that is the only step that we are willing to take.

There is a solution in praxis, action, which is the step following discussion. After having recognized the problem, concerning Americans, thinking individuals, must find a solution to the problem which is based in a full acceptance of the responsibility to act. This is the basis of student activism, the commitment to an idea or goal which must be achieved at all cost. I would suggest that the goal to be considered might be the complete merger of two races into a community of men, without pre-

judice, fear or subjection of one race to another. It can be done and it must be done, if only by the action of responsible Americans who are committed to the goal of "equality" for all men and the recognition that all men have certain, basic and "inalienable" rights. If this cannot be accepted, we deprive ourselves of the benefits which can be derived in a free society, for we are no longer a society of totally free men. Freedom implies, besides the acceptance of these rights as an individual, the recognition that these same rights belong to all men and by denying the "real" opportunity to achieve personal freedom we must deny their application to ourselves.

Black Power and UMSL

These ideas have a basic application and ground for action at UMSL. As members of an "Intellectual community" we are supposedly preparing to take a place in society as educated, thinking, free individuals. Can we be expected to wait until the day that we receive a degree to begin accepting praxis as a way of life--many do not even do it then. I don't think we can wait that long. There is a definite need for commitment right now. As a microcosm of society, society's problems can be found right here at UMSL--or any campus.

There is an alienation felt by Negro students which have caused them to segregate themselves, as a means of finding an identity--not as UMSL students-- but as UMSL Black Students: an application of Black Power Principles, caused in turn, by the same kind of principle in society which causes Negro ghettos and large-scale black power organizations led by an H. Rapp Brown or a Stokely Carmichael; or which causes an extremist reaction in the white community exemplified by the Ku Klux Klan or a George Wallace. The solution to the problem at UMSL rests on a continuum between these two extremes, which position must be achieved by both races--not by one or the other alone. So this is where praxis comes into the picture: we must realize the solution and then we must commit ourselves to achieving that solution at all costs and for all the benefits which may be derived from a new Association of UMSL students, formerly divided into Black Students and White students or a totally free society. It can be done.

By achieving a sense of unity at UMSL, we can see the benefits and possibility of using the same approach after we enter society--granted it will be harder and more difficult. But the same commitment to goals and the praxis to a-

chieve those established goals is needed.

Projection: The Future

Where can the emphasis or rejection of the principles of Black Power lead us. Sometimes it is difficult to see the direction while we are subjectively part of a movement which requires the dedication to certain principles; this is the danger of "fanaticism," its rightness or wrongness is not essential at this point.

If Black Power principles are reinforced it is not difficult to see a bleak picture of racial civil war; we are seeing the symptoms at the present time in the streets of many large cities, particularly in the North. If this trend continues, the war in Vietnam will not be worthy of any consideration by comparison.

If the refusal of white racists to look at the situation in all of its ugly reality--as can best be seen in a simple comparison of the ghetto to white America's suburbia formed isolation--the supporters of black power will gain the impetus and dedication to continue to fight inequality.

If the trend is continued at UMSL to exclude Negro students, they, too, will find a way to fight back through organizations which will reinforce their principles: Negro intramural athletic teams, Negro fraternities, and Afro-American student organizations. In doing so, we deprive ourselves--and are deprived--of the valuable contributions which can be made by any member of the student body, or society, regardless of race. We also lose the valuable experience of looking at the reality of a situation objectively and closing our minds--which are supposedly being educated--to an educational experience of the highest degree: learning about man and about his relations to other men--as we reject, accept or make them.

Praxis

The simple call to action, which we can answer is: to recognize the existence of a problem, be willing to do something about it, be willing to search for a solution, and then be willing to act so that the solution, a common and excepted solution, can be enacted.

We will shortly be ready for the second step: a meeting of both sides to find a solution. This is praxis which must be continued until that solution is enacted.

(Your comments are solicited in regard to content of this column, either through the *Current*--or a personal or group discussion with the author.)

Next Week: Man, Morality and Vietnam: A Moral Alternative.

UPO Calendar

Tues., Feb. 6: AERONAUTICAL CHART & INFO CENTER (ACIC). Any major who has completed 5 hrs or more of college math
Wed., Feb. 7: STANDARD OIL - Acc't., Gen'l. Bus., Mgmt., Marketing, Chemistry, Psychology, Economics
Wed., Feb. 7: ROCKWOOD R-6 SCHOOL - All Ed Majors
Thurs., Feb. 8: PRICE WATERHOUSE (CPA) - Accounting
Thurs., Feb. 8: SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. - All majors if interested in merchandising Career. Bus. Majors, English Majors

Fri., Feb. 9: MOBILE OIL CO. - See Individual Sign-up sheets in office
Fri., Feb. 9: LACLEDE STEEL CO. - Acc't., Gen'l. Bus., Marketing
Mon., Feb. 12: INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE - All majors except science
Mon., Feb. 12: ST. LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS - All Education Majors
Tues., Feb. 13: GENERAL FOODS - Management, Marketing
Wed., Feb. 14: FIRESTONE TIRE & RUBBER - All Business Majors
Thurs., Feb. 15: GENERAL ELECTRIC CO. - All Bus. Majors except Marketing.

Cagers To Play SW Baptist, Bearcats, Kansas State Teachers on Trip

By Doug Sutton, Sports Editor

When Coach Smith was asked what fans could expect in the second part of the season, all he said was "We'll have to wait and see how the boys' grades come out." Characteristically, he said it with a smile.

When asked what kind of teams Southwest Baptist and Kansas State Teachers College have, his smile

faded a little "Southwest will have a 6'6" All-Stater from Owensville, Jim White. And losing Bill Caldwell will affect our rebounding strength. It's going to be a tough game."

Southwest Baptist, the school for which Chuck Caldwell played and averaged 17 points a game last year, has two returning lettermen from last year's 13-6 squad. One

of the victories was at UMSL's expense. In that game, Chuck Caldwell lead the attack for the Bearcats with 28 points to beat the Rivermen, 110-78. The Rivermen will play Southwest on Monday, January 29 at Bolivar, Mo.

On January 30, UMSL will take on the Hornets of Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia, Kansas. The Hornets feature five returning lettermen from last year's 8-18 team. Dale Cushinberry, 6'3" center, will be the Rivermen's biggest worry; last year he averaged 9.5 points per game. Other lettermen returning for the Hornets are Dan Davies, who averaged 11.1 points; Ron Davis, Sam Siegrist, and Bruce Shannon.

The next game following the Rivermen's roadtrip will be against the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee on Saturday,

February 3 at Concordia. UWM, a new opponent on UMSL's schedule this year, will later host the Rivermen on February 17 in Milwaukee.

The Concordia Preachers and the Rivermen will meet for the third time this season on February 9, UMSL's Homecoming Game. The game will be at Concordia at 8:30.



Bill Caldwell

Bill Caldwell In Army

It took the army to break up the Caldwell brothers' act at UMSL. Bill Caldwell, 6-4 junior forward for the Rivermen, reported for his physical on Tuesday, January 23 in his home town of Birmingham, Alabama, according to head basketball coach Chuck Smith.

Bill played high school ball at Ullman High in Birmingham and later went to Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Missouri. He transferred to UMSL this past fall.

Coach Smith described Bill as a tremendous all-around player and one who is going to be sorely missed. Bill was the leading rebounder for the Rivermen, pulling down a total of 163 rebounds in 13 games, for a 12.5 average per game. In an early season game against McKendree College, he pulled down 23 rebounds a season high for the Rivermen. Bill was also the third leading scorer for UMSL, averaging 13.2 points per game.

Bill, a tremendous competitor, also was a good hustling ballplayer. In the game in which he pulled down 23 rebounds, he played 39 minutes; and in several other contests he played 36, 37, and 40 minutes. Somehow Coach Smith could not afford to leave Bill on the bench.

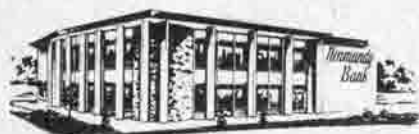
When a reporter asked Bill if it got him down playing so much, he just replied, "Man, it hurts worse sitting on the bench."

Probably the thing players will remember most about Bill is his smile. Bill always had a smile. In practice, in the games, after the games, Bill was always smiling. A reporter asked Bill why he smiled so much in the game. He answered: "I'm just thinking about the next play I'm going to put on them. I'm not smiling actually, I'm laughin'."

Besides averaging 13 points and 12.5 rebounds per game, Bill was a demon on defense. Strong and agile, he frustrated many opponents who tried to drive the basket against him. And yet, as aggressive as he was on the boards and on defense, he fouled out of only one game.

For his 52-point, 47-rebound performance in the 3-game Concordia Invitational Thanksgiving Tournament, Bill was named to the All-Tourney team along with his older brother Chuck.

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JAN. 24, 25, 26

Sports Calendar

January 29	Southwest Baptist	THERE	8:00
January 30	Kansas State Teachers	THERE	7:30
February 3	University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee	HERE	7:00
February 9	Concordia (HOMECOMING)	HERE	8:30
February 13	Southwestern of Memphis	HERE	8:30
February 17	University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee	THERE	8:00
February 19	University of Illinois, Chicago Circle	THERE	7:30
February 23	Illinois College	THERE	7:30

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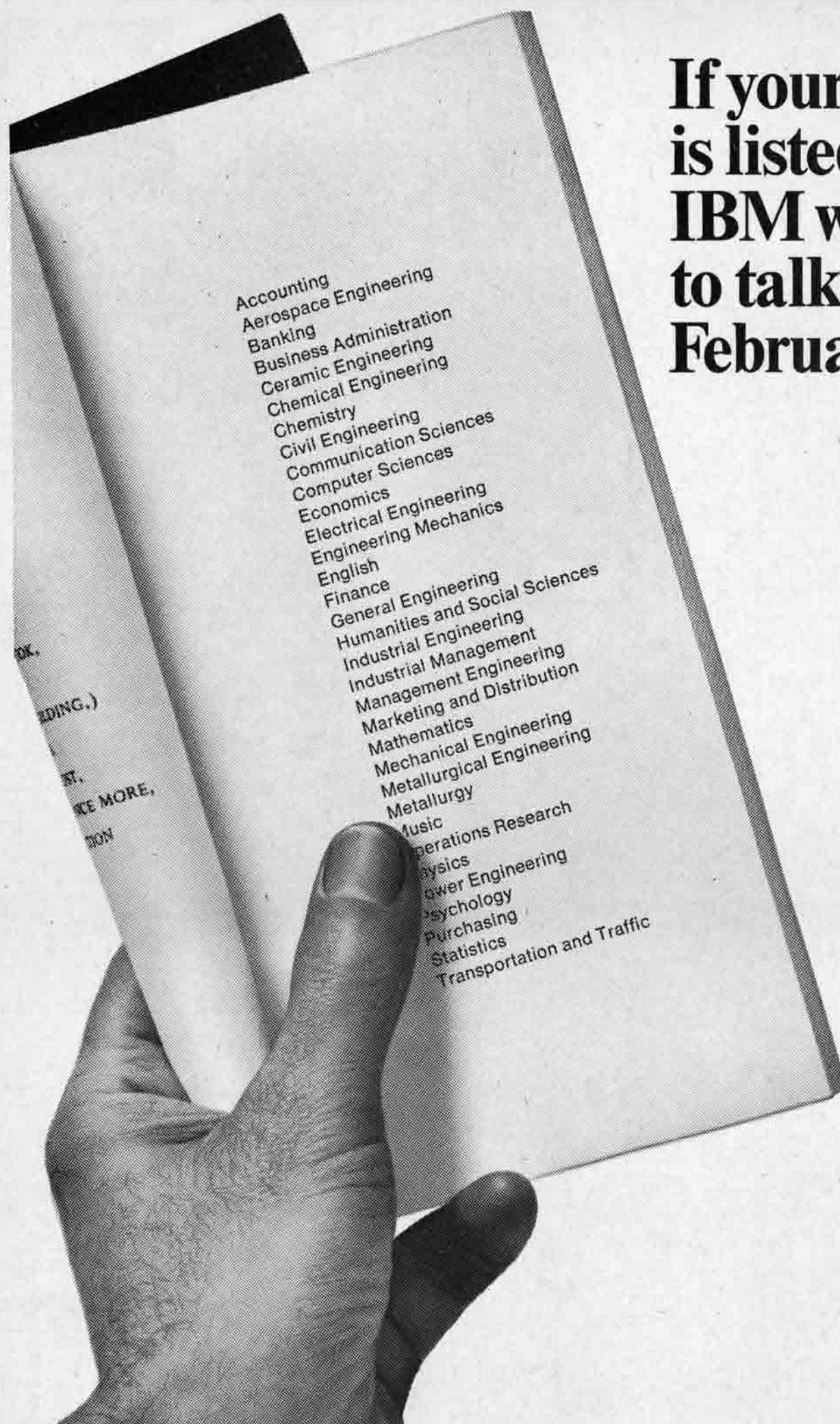
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